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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE UNDER SECRETARY

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GWB:

Subject: Soviet IL-18's for Cuba

The IL-18's are medium-range jet-prop passenger transport planes. They are being supplied to the Cuban national airline ostensibly to replace existing British-built "Britannia" transports, which the Cubans find hard to maintain because of difficulty in obtaining spare parts. It is thought the IL-18's will be used on the Prague-Havana run.

US efforts to persuade other countries to deny landing and overflight rights for the IL-18's have so far proved successful,

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